

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (h). The sugar factory at Chanpatia, Chakia in Bihar is one of the factories of the Champaran Sugar Company Limited, a private company which was wound up by Allahabad High Court Order on 05.09.1994 on the recommendation of the BIFR. On account of liquidation orders passed by the High Court, 876 workers at the sugar factory in Chanpatia ceased to be in employment. The management of the factory presently vest with the official liquidator. Since the Company is a private company, the Central Government has no proposal to clear their outstanding due or deployment of their employees in other Companies.

Status to Bikaner

1097. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bikaner District has been granted status of B-2 city; and

(b) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (b). Bikaner city has been classified as a B-2 Class City for the grant of House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance w.e.f. 1.3.1991.

Cotton Export

1098. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton permitted for export from Maharashtra during the current season;

(b) the total quantity of cotton exported by Maharashtra so far;

(c) the total quantity for export of cotton asked for by the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) the total quantity permitted by the Union Government; and

(e) the reason for permitting less quantity of cotton for export from the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) (a) to (d). Maharashtra Government had sought a quota of 5 lakh bales of cotton for export during the current cotton season (Sept. 95-Aug. 96). The Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation has been allocated a quota of 2.2 lakh bales of cotton for export. All other State Federations were allotted, in all, 1.8 lakh bales for export. In addition, Maharashtra Federation could also apply against the quotas released for modern ginning and pressing units as well as for CCI/Federations/Private trade. The total quantity of

cotton exported (actually shipped) by Maharashtra Federation in the current year upto 15/7/96 is reported to be 47,594 bales.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) to (d) above.

Review of P.M.R.Y.

1099. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding success of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (P.M.R.Y.) for educated unemployed youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the subsidy provided in this regard during the last year, State-wise and the target thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Progress in implementation of PMRY is reviewed by Committees constituted at the Central, State and District level. A cell headed by the Dy. Governor, RBI also closely monitors the performance of the banks under the PMRY. Besides review and assessment by these committees, evaluation of the programme is also carried out by involving reputed institutions like IIM. Based on this review/evaluation, progress in implementation of PMRY is satisfactory. As reported by the State/UTs, number of cases sanctioned bank loans during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 is 32,068, 1,98,238 and 2,94,148 respectively. However, insistence on collateral security by some banks and delay in disbursement of sanctioned loans have also been reported.

(d) Subsidy under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is released to the Reserve Bank of India which in turn releases it to implementing banks. Hence, RBI is maintaining bankwise releases of subsidy and does not maintain State-wise subsidy releases. During the year 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 118.20 crores was released to the Reserve Bank of India for meeting subsidy claims for implementation of PMRY.

Cargo and Custom Agents

1100. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of authorised agents of Cargo and Customs clearing in Delhi;

(b) the criteria adopted for authorisation of such agencies;

(c) the number of licences issued during 1996-97 till date;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints/suggestions about the working of these agencies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(f) whether some unauthorised agents are also working in this field; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) the number of authorised Custom House Agents in Delhi is 460.

(b) the licencing of Custom House Agents is governed by the provisions of Custom House Agents Licencing Regulations 1984. Issue of temporary licences is governed by Regulations 4 to 8 which, inter-alia, provide for the method of invitation of application, the details to be furnished in the application, the conditions to be fulfilled by the applicants, and the scrutiny of the application. The grant of regular licences is governed by Regulations 9 to 11 which, inter-alia, provide for passing of an examination by the person or employees of the firms who have been granted a temporary licence, for furnishing a security and execution of a bond by the prospective licensee etc.

(c) 31 temporary licences have been issued during 1996-97, till date.

(d) to (g). The Government have not received any complaints/suggestions about working of the Agents at Delhi Custom House. Nor has the Government received any reports about any unauthorised Agents working at Delhi. As such, no action is required to be taken in this regard.

Reservation of Women in Parliament

1101. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started preparing a constitutional amendment bill to reserve one third of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) A proposal to reserve one-third of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies is under active consideration of the Government and a formal decision in the matter is expected to be taken shortly.

Seizure of Goods at I.G.I. Airport

1102. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign currency and smuggled goods seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at the Indira Gandhi International Airport from 1st January to 30th June, 1996;

(b) the number and details of the persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the action taken against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have detected four cases of attempt to smuggle goods at Indira Gandhi International Airport from 1.1.96 to 30.6.96 leading to seizure of assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 153.99 lakhs and foreign market gold weighing 15.251 Kgs valued at Rs. 80.17 lakhs. Four persons have been arrested in this regard. The names of persons and action taken against them are as follows :-

1. Shri Herbert Blazek detained under COFEPOSA.
2. Shri Abdul Qudose Rehman &
3. Shri Mohd. Aslam Khan - Arrested and remanded to judicial custody till 25.7.1996.
4. Shri Parmeet Singh Boparai - arrested and remanded to judicial custody, however, he has been released on interim bail on 7.6.1996. Prosecution against him has been filed on 11.6.1996.

Export of Poor Quality Items

1103. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint for exporting sub-standard goods to the foreign buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to take action against all those exporters who are involved in exporting poor quality of their production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. These complaints mainly relate to non-compliance of mutually agreed product specifications, defective packaging, delivery of wrong items, deterioration or contamination particularly in respect of edible/perishable items. The complaints are promptly investigated and appropriate action is taken against the